

so much vehemence urge the necessity of change, but who until recently, judging from silent acquiescence, were perfectly satisfied with things as they are. In the language of an instrument, the mere mention of which, must cause every American heart to beat with a quicker throb—"prudence indeed will dictate, that governments long established, should not be changed for light and transient causes," and believing as the undersigned do, that the causes assigned for the change are light, and knowing that they are recent, and therefore perhaps of transient operation, they do not feel disposed, to yield to their force so far, as to venture upon the hazardous experiment, of substituting for the existing constitution, under which our rights have been so well secured, another; which may, or may not afford us equal protection.

The undersigned cannot help adverting to the fact, that from the passage of the act of December session, 1836, and which, by the confirmatory act of the ensuing session, became a part of the constitution, and by which so many, and such vital changes in the pre-existing form of government were made, down to the latter end of the year eighteen hundred and forty-four, little or nothing was heard of the necessity of further alterations.

The giving the election of Governor to the people by general ticket, and the changes made in the Legislative department of the government in both of its branches, appeared to have satisfied the desire, which until then, prevailed in some parts of the State for a change in the organic law. It seemed to be considered on all hands, at least as far, as satisfaction may be inferred, from unmurmuring acquiescence, as a fair and equitable compromise, of previously conflicting views. The populous, and the thinly peopled communities, the large and the small counties, seemed equally content, and a reasonable hope was therefore entertained, that this distracting subject would not, at least for many years again agitate the community.

According to the provisions of the amended constitution, an election for Governor was held under it in December, 1838, and at that election, and at the next ensuing election for the same high office in the year 1841, a member of the Democratic party as is called, was chosen, and during the six years, for which these two Governors were chosen, the undersigned suppose themselves safe in saying, no dissatisfaction with, or desire further to alter the constitution was expressed. If in any quarter such a desire existed, it was unable to make itself heard, and consequently could produce, and did produce, no effect upon the public mind. Certain it is, that during the six years a Democratic Governor, wielded the executive power of the State, and dispensed its patronage, no convention to give tone to public sentiment, and stir up the feelings of the masses, by addresses to them upon the unequal distribution of political power, or the expensiveness of the government, was held. Why it was, that these watchful guardians of popular rights, and of the public treasure, permitted themselves to slumber upon their posts, during these six years is somewhat strange, if the